

REMARKS

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1-5 will have been canceled and Claims 6 and 7 will have been newly added. Accordingly, Claims 6 and 7 remain pending in the present application. By the present Amendment and Remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections and objections have been overcome, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Summary of the Office Action

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Traversal of Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,599,035 to Ichinokawa (hereinafter "ICHINOKAWA").

Applicant has canceled Claims 1-5. As such, Applicant submits that the rejection with respect to these claims is now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the aforementioned rejection.

Applicant's new Claims 6 and 7 recite, *inter alia*, ... a driving unit configured to drive a driven member, the driving unit being arranged closer to the subject side than the holding unit and movable relatively to the holding unit in the direction of an optical axis.

On the other hand, ICHINOKAWA does not teach the aforementioned features. Rather, ICHINOKAWA discloses a stepping motor (23), but the stepping motor (23) does not move relatively to a holding unit in the direction of the optical axis. The stepping motor (23) is fixed on a support frame (21), and the support frame (21) is fixed on a lens case (1). Consequently, the stepping motor (23) does not move relatively to the holding unit in the direction of the optical axis. Therefore, ICHINOKAWA does not disclose that the driving unit is arranged so as to avoid an overhang portion in the direction perpendicular to the optical axis when the driving unit comes relatively close to the holding unit, either.

Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim on the present invention meets the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate allowance of such claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's invention as recited in Claims 6 and 7. The applied reference of record has been discussed and distinguished, while the significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 502456.

Respectfully submitted,

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